

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CH

SUBJECT: CODEL FULBRIGHT

REF: (A) PEKING 1480; (B) PEKING 1476

1. DEPTOFF (BROOKS--EA/PRCM) PHONED CHI CH'AO-CHU OF PRCLO AFTERNOON AUGUST 28 AND, HAVING PUT CALL IN AN INFORMAL CONTEXT, SUMMARIZED REPORT FROM USLO (REFTEL B) CONCERNING FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS FROM SHANGHAI. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT CHINESE DECISION INDICATED THEREIN (WHICH CHI CONFIRMED) REGARDING OUR PROPOSAL THAT DELEGATION BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE ITS TRIP TO PEKING ON THE USG AIRCRAFT, BUT MADE IT CLEAR HIS EXPRESSION OF DISAPPOINTMENT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN THAT.

2. DEPTOFF NEXT EXPLAINED THAT 1600 HOURS ARRIVAL TIME IN SHANGHAI ORIGINALLY CONVEYED TO MFA HAD BEEN INTENDED TO GIVE DELEGATION MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF REST IN GUAM AFTER LONG CONTINUOUS JOURNEY FROM US TO GUAM, YET ALLOW FOR REASONABLY EARLY ARRIVAL IN PEKING. NOW, IN VIEW OF THE ADDITIONAL TIME THAT PRESUMABLY WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ANY FORMALITIES IN SHANGHAI AND FOR TRANSFERRING LARGE AMOUNT OF BAGGAGE FROM USG AIRCRAFT, WE HAD IN
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MIND INSTRUCTING USLO TO CONVEY TO MFA A REVISED FLIGHT

PLAN PROVIDING FOR ARRIVAL IN SHANGHAI ONE HOUR EARLIER,

AT 1500 HOURS LOCAL. ONE FACTOR IN THIS DECISION WAS CONVENIENCE OF THE CHINESE SIDE, IN THAT IT APPEARED TO US POSSIBLE THAT ARRIVAL OF THE USG AIRCRAFT AT 1500 HOURS MIGHT PERMIT USE OF THE CAAC FLIGHT SCHEDULED TO DEPART SHANGHAI AT 1615. DEPTOFF THEN ASKED WHETHER MR. CHI HAD ANY INFORMAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS.

3. HE HAD--AND IN FACT SEEMED WELL BRIEFED. FIRST, HE NOTED THAT WHILE LAST YEAR MAGNUSON GROUP HAD GONE ON TO PEKING IN USG AIRCRAFT, THIS YEAR BOTH THE GOVERNORS AND SENATOR JACKSON HAD TAKEN USG AIRCRAFT ONLY AS FAR AS SHANGHAI; THEREFORE HE COULD SEE NO BASIS FOR OUR DISAPPOINTMENT. NEXT, THOUGH "UNINSTRUCTED" AND UNAWARE OF WHAT PLANS HIS SIDE HAD FOR TRANSPORTING THE DELEGATION TO PEKING, HE KNEW IT WOULD ALL BE DONE WITH DISPATCH AND INVOLVE NO LENGTHY STOP IN SHANGHAI. MOREOVER, WERE THE USG AIRCRAFT TO ARRIVE IN SHANGHAI AT 1600 HOURS, THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF TRYING TO EFFECT A FIFTEEN MINUTE TRANSFER OF THE DELEGATION AND ITS BAGGAGE ONTO A CHINESE FLIGHT DEPARTING AT 1615. DEPTOFF ASSURED CHI HE REALIZED THAT AND HAD NOT BEEN SUGGESTING THE CONTRARY.

4. AFTER MUTUAL REASSURANCES THAT THIS CONVERSATION WAS INFORMAL, CHI SUGGESTED THAT USLO DISCUSS WITH MFA WHETHER 1500 HOURS OR 1600 HOURS ARRIVAL TIME WOULD WORK OUT BETTER. THE MAIN QUESTION, CHI AGREED, WAS MUTUAL CONVENIENCE OF BOTH SIDES.

5. SHORT TIME LATER DEPTOFF PHONED CHI BACK TO ADVISE THAT, ON BALANCE, 1500 HOURS ARRIVAL TIME IN SHANGHAI WOULD BE SOMEWHAT MORE CONVENIENT FOR US THAN 1600 HOURS AND THAT DEPARTMENT WAS INSTRUCTING USLO TO INFORM MFA OF THIS AND REQUEST ITS APPROVAL OF THE EARLIER TIME. USLO WOULD, HOWEVER, HAVE LEEWAY TO REVERT TO LATER (1600 HOURS) ARRIVAL TIME IF LATER TIME WERE, AFTER ALL, MORE CONVENIENT TO THE CHINESE SIDE IN THE LIGHT OF ITS PLANNING BASED ON EXPECTATION OF USG
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AIRCRAFT ARRIVING AT 1600 HOURS.

6. IN CONTACT WITH MFA ON THIS MATTER, YOU MAY AT YOUR DISCRETION REFER TO DEPTOFF'S CONVERSATIONS WITH PRCLO OFFICIAL, BUT YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR PRESENTATION ALONG THE LINES INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 5. IF MFA STANCE (AS WE SUSPECT) IS ONE OF INDIFFERENCE AS TO WHETHER USG AIRCRAFT ARRIVES SHANGHAI AT 1500 OR

1600 HOURS, YOU MAY ADVISE THEM A NEW FLIGHT PLAN WITH
PROJECTED 1500 HOURS ARRIVAL TIME WILL BE FORTHCOMING.
IF, HOWEVER, MFA INDICATES IT WOULD PREFER DELEGATION
STILL ARRIVE AT 1600 HOURS, SO BE IT. PLEASE INFORM
DEPARTMENT ASAP WHICH TIME IT'S TO BE.
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